

and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 23, 1999.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York**, (Betsy Buttrill White, Senior Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *Cornerstone Bancorp, Inc.*, Stamford, Connecticut; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Cornerstone Bank, Stamford, Connecticut.

2. *Troy Financial Corporation*, Troy, New York; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of The Troy Savings Bank, Troy, New York.

In connection with this application, Applicant also has applied to acquire The Family Investment Services Co., Inc., and T.S. Real Property, Inc., both of Troy, New York, and thereby engage in certain nonbanking activities, including securities brokerage and riskless principal through The Family Investment Services Co., Inc., Troy, New York, pursuant to §§ 225.28 (b)(7)(i) and (ii) of Regulation Y, and through T.S. Real Property, Inc., in community development activities, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(12)(i) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 23, 1998.

**Jennifer J. Johnson**,  
*Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-34455 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 15, 1999.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis** (Randall C. Sumner, Vice President) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2034:

1. *Concord EFS, Inc.*, Memphis, Tennessee; to acquire Electronic Payment Services, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, and thereby engage in the operation and development of automated teller machines and point-of-sale processing businesses and related activities, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(14) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 23, 1998.

**Jennifer J. Johnson**,  
*Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-34454 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 4, 1999.

**PLACE:** Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

**STATUS:** Closed.

#### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: December 24, 1998.

**Jennifer J. Johnson**,  
*Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-34541 Filed 12-24-98; 10:59 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection requirements described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is soliciting public comments on the proposed extension of Paperwork Reduction Act clearance for information collection requirements contained in its Appliance Labeling Rule ("Rule"), promulgated pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 ("ECPA"). OMB has extended the expiration for clearance by six months, from September 30, 1998 to March 31, 1999. The FTC proposes that OMB extend its approval for the rule an additional three years from the prior expiration date of September 30, 1998. **DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before March 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room H-159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580. All comments should be identified as responding to this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information requirements should be addressed to James Mills, Attorney, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Division of Enforcement, Rm 4616, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580 (202-326-3035).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. As required by section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, the FTC is providing this opportunity for public comment before requesting that OMB extend the existing paperwork clearance for the rule (OMB Control Number 3084-0069).

The FTC invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate

automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Description of the collection of information and proposed use:* The Rule establishes testing, reporting, recordkeeping, and labeling requirements for manufacturers of major household appliances (refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, clothes washers, dishwashers, window air conditioners, furnaces, central air conditioners, and heat pumps). The requirements relate specifically to the disclosure of information relating to energy consumption and water usage. The Rule's testing and disclosure requirements enable consumers purchasing appliances to compare the energy use or efficiency of competing models. In addition, ECPA and Rule require manufacturers to submit relevant data to the Commission regarding energy or water usage in connection with the products they manufacture. The Commission uses this data to compile the ranges of comparability for covered appliances for publication in the **Federal Register**. These submissions, along with required records for testing data, may also be used for comparison purposes in enforcement actions involving alleged misstatements on labels or in advertisements.

*Estimated annual hours burden:* Section 324 of ECPA and the Commission's Rule impose burdens for testing (620,713 hours); reporting (1,178 hours); recordkeeping (789 hours); labeling (91,735); and retail catalog disclosures (*de minimis*). The total burden for these activities is 715,000 hours (rounded).

The following estimates of the time needed to comply with the requirements of the Rule are based on census data, Department of Energy figures and

estimates, general knowledge of manufacturing practices, and trade association advice and figures. Because the burden of compliance falls almost entirely on manufacturers and importers (with a *de minimis* burden relating to retailers), burden estimates are calculated on the basis of the number of domestic manufacturers and/or the number of units shipped domestically in the various product categories.

**A Testing**

Under the Rule, manufacturers of covered products must test each basic model they produce to determine energy usage (or, in the case of plumbing fixtures, water consumption). The burden imposed by this requirement is determined by the number of basic models produced, the average number of units tested per model, and the number of hours required to conduct the applicable test. The figures for numbers of basic models that staff received from the industry represent all of the basic models in a given product category.

Manufacturers need not subject each basic model to testing annually; they must retest only if the product design changes in such a way as to affect energy consumption. However, staff have been told that manufacturers generally test each model at least once a year. Staff have conservatively assumed that this annual testing means all basic models were either replaced or subject to design changes during the year that necessitated testing under the Rule. The burden estimates in this Notice, which assume annual testing for all models, are accordingly conservative and likely are somewhat overstated to the extent manufacturers are actually carrying out annual tests for reasons unrelated to the Rule. The testing burden for the different categories of products covered by the Rule is estimated as follows:

Category of manufacturer	Number of basic models	Avg. number of units tested per model	Hours per unit tested	Total annual testing burden hours
Refrigerators, Refrigerator-freezers, and Freezers .....	360	2	4	2,880
Dishwashers .....	78	2	1	156
Clothes washers .....	150	2	2	600
Water heaters .....	650	2	24	31,200
Room air conditioners .....	520	2	8	8,320
Furnaces .....	1,900	2	8	30,400
Central A/C .....	1,095	2	24	52,560
Heat pumps .....	831	2	72	119,664
Pool heaters .....	75	2	12	1,800
Fluorescent lamp ballasts .....	975	4	3	11,700
Lamp products .....	2,100	12	14	352,800
Plumbing fittings .....	1,700	2	2	6,800
Plumbing fixtures .....	22,000	1	.0833	1,833
.....	.....	.....	.....	620,713

**B. Reporting**

Reporting burden estimates are based on information from industry representatives. Manufacturers of some products (e.g., appliances, HVAC equipment—furnaces, boilers, central air conditioners, and heat pumps) indicate that, for them, the reporting burden is best measured by the estimated time required to report on each model manufactured, while others (e.g., makers of fluorescent lamp ballasts, lamp products) state that an estimated number of annual burden hours by manufacturer is a more

meaningful way to measure. The figures below reflect these different methodologies as well as the varied burden hour estimates provided to staff by manufacturers of the different product categories that use the latter methodology.

*Appliances, HVAC Equipment, and Pool Heaters*

Staff estimate that the average reporting burden for these manufacturers is approximately two minutes per basic model. Based on this estimate, multiplied by a total of 5,659 basic models of these products, the

annual reporting burden for the appliance, HVAC equipment, and pool heater industry is an estimated 188 hours (2 minutes×5,659 models÷60 minutes per hour).

*Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts, Lamp Products, and Plumbing Fixtures*

The total annual reporting burden for manufacturers of fluorescent lamp ballasts, lamp products, and plumbing fixtures is based on the estimated average annual burden for each category of manufacturers, multiplied by the number of manufacturers in each respective category, as shown below:

Category of manufacturer	Annual burden hours per manufacturer	Number of manufacturers	Total annual reporting burden hours
Fluorescent lamp ballasts .....	6	20	120
Lamp products .....	15	50	750
Plumbing fixtures .....	1	120	120

**Total Reporting Burden Hours**

The total reporting burden for industries covered by the Rule is 1,178 hours annually (188+120+750+120).

by number of manufacturers for fluorescent lamp ballasts, lamp products, and plumbing fixtures.

*Appliances, HVAC Equipment, and Pool Heaters*

The recordkeeping burden for manufacturers of appliances, HVAC equipment, and pool heaters varies directly with the number of tests performed. Staff estimate total recordkeeping burden of approximately 189 hours for these manufacturers, based on an estimated average of one minute per record stored (whether in

electronic or paper format), multiplied by 11,318 tests performed annually (1×11,318÷60 minutes per hour).

*Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts, Lamp Products, and Plumbing Fixtures*

The total annual recordkeeping burden for manufacturers of fluorescent lamp ballasts, lamp products, and plumbing fixtures is based on the estimated average annual burden for each category of manufacturers (derived from industry sources), multiplied by the number of manufacturers in each respective category, as shown below:

**C. Recordkeeping**

EPCA and the Commission's Rule require manufacturers to keep records of the test data generated in performing the tests to derive information included on labels and required by the Rule. As in Section B. above, burden is calculated by number of models for appliances, HVAC equipment, and pool heaters, and

Category of manufacturer	Annual burden hours per manufacturer	Number of manufacturers	Total annual recordkeeping burden hours
Fluorescent lamp ballasts .....	2	20	40
Lamp products .....	10	50	500
Plumbing fixtures .....	.5	120	60

**Total Recordkeeping Burden Hours**

The total recordkeeping burden for industries covered by the Rule is 789 hours annually (189+40+500+60).

each category of products is described below:

*Appliances, HVAC Equipment, and Pool Heaters*

Staff estimate that the time to prepare labels for appliances, HVAC equipment, and pool heaters is no more than four minutes per basic model. Thus, for appliances, HVAC equipment, and pool heaters, the approximate annual drafting burden involved in labeling is 377 hours per year [5,659 (all basic models)×four minutes (drafting time per basic model)÷60 (minutes per hour)].

Industry representatives and trade associations have estimated that it takes between 4 and 8 seconds to affix each label to each product. Based on an

average of six seconds per unit, the annual burden for affixing labels to appliances, HVAC equipment, and pool heaters is 74,222 hours [six (seconds)×44,533,465 (the number of total products shipped in 1997) divided by 3,600 (seconds per hour)].

The Rule also requires that HVAC equipment manufacturers disclose energy usage information on a separate fact sheet or in an approved industry-prepared directory of products. Staff have estimated the preparation of these fact sheets requires approximately 30 minutes per basic model. Manufacturers producing at least 95 percent of the affected equipment, however, are members of trade associations that produce approved directories (in

**D. Labeling**

EPCA and the Rule require that manufacturers of covered products provide certain information to consumers, through labels, fact sheets, or permanent markings on the products. The burden imposed by this requirement consists of (1) the time needed to prepare the information to be provided, and (2) the time needed to provide it, in whatever form, with the products. The applicable burden for

connection with their certification programs independent of the Rule) that satisfy the fact sheet requirement. Thus, the drafting burden for fact sheets for HVAC equipment is approximately 96 hours annually [3,826 (all basic models) × .5 hours × .05 (proportion of equipment for which fact sheets are required)].

The Rule allows manufacturers to prepare a compendium of fact sheets for each retail establishment as long as there is a fact sheet for each basic model sold. Assuming that six HVAC manufacturers (i.e., approximately 5% of HVAC manufacturers), produce fact sheets instead of having required information shown in industry directories, and each spends approximately 16 hours per year distributing the fact sheets to retailers and in response to occasional consumer requests, the total time attributable to this activity would also be approximately 96 hours.

The total annual labeling burden for appliances, HVAC equipment, and pool heaters is 377 hours for preparation plus 74,222 hours for affixing, or 74,599 hours. The total annual fact sheet burden is 96 hours for preparation and 96 hours for distribution, or 192 hours. The total annual burden for labels and fact sheets for the appliance, HVAC, and pool heater industries is, therefore, estimated to be 74,791 hours (74,599+192).

#### *Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts*

The statute and the Rule require that labels for fluorescent lamp ballasts contain an "E" within a circle. Since manufacturers label these ballasts in the ordinary course of business, the only impact of the Rule is to require manufacturers to reformat their labels to include the "E" symbol. Thus the burden imposed by the Rule for labeling fluorescent lamp ballasts is *de minimis*.

#### *Lamp Products*

The burden imposed for labeling of lamp products is also *de minimis*, for similar reasons. The Rule requires certain disclosures on packaging for lamp products. Since manufacturers were already disclosing the substantive information required under the Rule prior to its implementation, the practical effect of the Rule was to require that manufacturers redesign packaging materials to ensure they include the disclosures in the manner and form prescribed by the Rule. Because this effort is now complete, there is no ongoing labeling burden imposed by the Rule for lamp products.

#### *Plumbing Fixtures*

The statute and the Rule require that manufacturers disclose the water flow rate for plumbing fixtures. This disclosure may be accomplished by attaching a label to the product, through permanent markings imprinted on the product as part of the manufacturing process, or by including the required information on packaging materials for the product. While some methods might impose little or no additional incremental time burden and cost on the manufacturers, other methods (such as affixing labels) could. Thus, staff estimate on overall blended average burden associated with this disclosure requirement of one second per unit sold. Staff also estimate that there are approximately 9,000,000 covered fixtures and 52,000,000 fittings sold annually in the country. Therefore, the estimated annual burden to label plumbing fixtures is 16,944 hours [61,000,000 (units) × 1 (seconds) ÷ 3,600 seconds per hour].

#### Total Burden for Labeling

The total labeling burden for all industries covered by the Rule is 91,735 hours (74,791+16,944) annually.

#### **E. Retail Sales Catalogs Disclosures**

The Rule requires that sellers offering covered products through retail sales catalogs (i.e., those publications from which a consumer can actually order merchandise) disclose in the catalog energy (or water) consumption for each covered product. Because this information is supplied by the product manufacturers, the burden on the retailer consists of incorporating the information into the catalog presentation.

Staff estimate that there are approximately 100 sellers who offer covered products through retail catalogs. While the Rule initially imposed a burden on sellers by requiring that they draft disclosures and incorporate them into the layouts of their catalogs, catalog sellers now have substantial experience with the Rule and its requirements. Energy and water consumption information has obvious relevance to consumers, so sellers are likely to disclose much of the required information with or without the Rule. Accordingly, given the small number of catalog sellers, their experience with incorporating energy and water consumption data into their catalogs, and the likelihood that many of the required disclosures would be made in the ordinary course of businesses, staff believe that any burden the Rule

imposes on catalog sellers is *de minimis*.

*Estimated annual cost burden:* \$16,479,000, (\$13,351,000 in labor costs and \$3,128,000 in non-labor costs).

*Labor Costs:* Staff have derived labor costs by applying appropriate estimated hourly cost figures to the burden hours described above. In calculating the cost figures, staff have estimated that test procedures are conducted by skilled technical personnel at an hourly rate of \$20.00, and that recordkeeping and reporting, as well as labeling, marking, and preparation of fact sheets, are, on average, done by clerical personnel at a rate of \$10.00 per hours.

On this basis, the total annual also costs for the five difference categories of burden under the Rule, as applied to all the products covered by the Rule, is \$13,351,000 (rounded), which is derived as follows:

1. \$12,414,260 for testing all products covered by the Rule, based on 620,713 hours [620,713 × \$20.00 per hour].
2. \$11,780 for complying with the reporting requirements of the Rule, based on 1,178 hours [1,178 × \$10.00 per hour].
3. \$7,890 for complying with the recordkeeping requirements of the Rule, based on 7,890 hours [798 × \$10.00 per hour].
4. \$917,350 for complying with the labeling, marking, and fact sheet requirements of the Rule, based on 91,735 hours [91,735 × \$10.00 per hour].

*De minimis* for retain catalog disclosures, for the reasons previously noted with respect to burden hours.

*Capital or other-non-labor costs:* \$3,127,500 (\$2,500 for reporting requirements and \$3,125,000 for labeling requirements), rounded to \$3,128,000, determined as follows.

In considering how to estimate the capital or other-labor costs associated with compliance with the Rule, staff have examined the five distinct burdens imposed by EPCA through Rule—testing, reporting, recordkeeping, labeling, and retail catalog disclosures—as they affect the 11 groups of products that the Rule covers. Staff have concluded that there are no current start-up costs associated with the Rule. The Rule has been effective since 1980 for appliances, since 1987 for central air conditioners, heat pumps, boilers, and furnaces, since 1989 for fluorescent lamp ballasts, since 1993 for plumbing and lighting products, and since 1994 for pool heaters. Manufacturers of these products, therefore, have in place the capital equipment necessary—especially equipment to measure energy and/or water usage—to comply with the Rule.

Manufacturers that submit required reports to the Commission directly (rather than through trade associations) incur some nominal costs for paper and postage. Staff estimates that these costs do not exceed \$2,500. Manufacturers must also incur the cost of providing labels and fact sheets used in compliance with the Rule. Based on estimates of 44,533,465 units shipped and 109,500 fact sheets prepared,<sup>1</sup> at an average cost of seven cents for each label or fact sheet, the total (rounded) labeling cost is \$3,125,500.

**Debra A. Valentine,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 98-34406 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 3090-0259]

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request Entitled Market Research Questionnaire

**AGENCY:** Federal Supply Service, GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for an extension to a previously approved OMB Clearance (3090-0259).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Office of Acquisition Policy has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a previously approved information collection requirement entitled Market Research Questionnaire. The information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on October 22, 1998 at 63 CFR 56653 allowing for a 60-day public comment period. No comments were received.

**DATES:** Comment Due Date: January 28, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of

<sup>1</sup> The units shipped total is based on combined actual or estimated industry figures for 1997 across all of the product categories, except for fluorescent lamp ballasts, lamp products, and plumbing fixtures. Staff has determined that, for those product categories, there are little or no costs associated with the labeling requirements. The fact sheet estimation is based on the previously noted assumption that five percent of HVAC manufacturers produce fact sheets on their own. Based on total HVAC units shipped (8,759,907), five percent amounts to 437,995 HVAC units. Because manufacturers generally list more than one unit on a fact sheet, staff have estimated that manufacturers independently preparing them will use one sheet for every four of these 437,995 units. Thus, staff estimate that HVAC manufacturers produce approximately 109,500 fact sheets.

this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: Edward Springer, GSA Desk Officer, Room 3235, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503 and also may be submitted to Marjorie Ashby, General Services Administration (MVP), 1800 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Thomas Bacon, Federal Supply Service  
on (703) 305-6573.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Purpose

The GSA is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to review and approve information collection, 3090-0259 concerning Market Research Questionnaire. The Market Research Questionnaires are used to gather information that is necessary to develop and/or revise Federal specifications and other purchase descriptions.

##### B. Annual Reporting Burden

*Respondents:* 25; *annual responses:* 25; *average hours per response:* 2.4; *burden hours:* 60.

*Copy of Proposal:* A copy of this proposal may be obtained from the GSA Acquisition Policy Division (MVP), Room 4011, GSA Building, 1800 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20405, or by telephoning (20) 501-3822, or by faxing your request to (202) 501-3341.

Dated: December 21, 1998.

**Ida M. Ustad,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy.*

[FR Doc. 98-34333 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-61-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 99025]

#### Emerging Infections Sentinel Networks; Notice of Availability of Funds

##### A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 1999 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the operation of provider-based Emerging Infections Sentinel Networks (EISN). This program addresses the "Healthy People 2000" priority area of Immunization and Infectious Diseases. The purpose of the

program is to assist recipients in operating and enhancing established EISNs or in setting up new networks for assessing emerging infections. These networks will assess emerging infectious diseases, including drug-resistant, foodborne and waterborne, and vaccine-preventable or potentially vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sentinel networks linking groups of participating individuals or organizations are helpful in monitoring a variety of infectious disease problems and enhancing communication among participants, and between participants and the public health community. They also can serve as readily accessible mechanisms to address urgent public health infectious disease problems rapidly. Three sentinel networks are currently receiving funds through this cooperative agreement program: Infectious Disease Society of America Emerging Infections Network; Emergency ID Net, a network of academically affiliated emergency departments; and GeoSentinel, a network operated by the International Society for Travel Medicine. Further development of the sentinel network concept will continue to improve understanding of specific public health issues and enhance preparedness to meet new infectious disease threats.

##### B. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by public and private nonprofit organizations and by governments and their agencies, that is, universities, colleges, research institutions, hospitals, other public and private nonprofit organizations, State and local governments or their bona fide agents, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Indian tribes, or Indian tribal organizations.

**Note:** Public Law 104-65 states that an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to receive Federal funds constituting an award, grant, cooperative agreement, contract, loan, or any other form.

##### C. Availability of Funds

Approximately \$525,000 is available in FY 1999 to fund approximately three awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$175,000, ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000. It is expected that the awards will begin on or about May 1, 1999, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to five years. The funding estimate may change.

Continuation awards within an approved project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress as